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UM News Tips

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Aug. 14, 1998

INSECTS LAUNCH ATTACK ON MOUNT SENTINEL WEEDS--Can a swarm of tiny, yellow moths and an army of weevils eat more than 10 sheep did? That's what Diana L. Six, assistant professor of forest entomology at The University of Montana-Missoula, and Nancy Sturtevant of the U.S. Forest Service hope to determine in the latest experiment in the plan to attack the noxious weeds on Mount Sentinel. As part of a plan to restore the natural prairie ecosystem on the mountain, UM's Mount Sentinel Weed Committee funded the study, which calls for releasing two biological control agents on spotted knapweed. The immature stages of these insects feed and live within the roots of spotted knapweed. Their presence can severely damage the roots and kill the plant, Six says.

NEWS OPPORTUNITY: Diana Six and Nancy Sturtevant will be available to talk about their study at **1:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17**, at the research site on Mount Sentinel. To get there, drive all the way to the end of South Avenue (where it meets Mount Sentinel), turn right on Maurice and continue up the dirt road to the gate. For more information, call Six at 243-5573 or Rita Munzenrider in University Relations at 243-4824.

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